

On the distribution of *Caecum clarkii* Carpenter, 1858
(*Prosobranchia, Caecidae*) in the Channel

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Recently the marine gastropod *Caecum clarkii* Carpenter, 1858, was reported from the island of Herm, Channel Islands (Hoeksema, 1981). After this publication several other records from the Channel region were brought to light; these are dealt with in the present paper. First a short history of the species *C. clarkii* is given.

While describing *C. clarkii*, Carpenter (1858: 432, 443) was not sure about its taxonomical status; he provisionally introduced the taxon as "*Caecum* (?*vitreum*, var.) *Clarkii*". Tryon (1886: 215, pl. 66 fig. 55) regarded *C. clarkii* as a variety of *C. vitreum* Carpenter, 1858. Only after the publication of Van Aartsen & Fehr-de Wal (1975) *C. clarkii* is considered a valid species, clearly different from *C. vitreum* (Van Aartsen, 1977; Piani, 1980; Panetta, 1980).

Nordsieck & Garcia-Talavera (1979), Nordsieck (1982), and Rolan-Mosquera (1983) did not mention *C. clarkii*. It can be concluded from Rolan-Mosquera's (1983: 174) excellent figures of "*C. vitreum*" from the Ria de Vigo, that this author is not dealing with *C. vitreum*, but with *C. clarkii*.

As to the distribution of the two species, Van Aartsen (1977: 18) concluded that *C. vitreum* is restricted to the Canary Islands, whereas *C. clarkii* has a much wider distribution, viz. the Mediterranean and Lusitanian Seas, the Canary Islands and the Azores.

Dautzenberg & Durouchoux (1900, 1906, 1913-1914) published a detailed survey of the marine molluscs living in the bay of St.-Malo [outer limits according to these authors (1900: 39 [1]: Cap Fréhel, Pointe du Grouin, Iles Chausey and les Minquiers]. In this survey the presence of *C. vitreum* is reported (1906: 44 [7]; 1913: 21). For the identification Dautzenberg & Durouchoux (1913: 21) referred to Carpenter (1858) and Tryon (1886). All samples of "*C. vitreum*" from the bay of St.-Malo in the Dautzenberg collection in the Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen (Brussels), however, appeared to contain merely specimens of *C. clarkii*. This makes clear that Dautzenberg & Durouchoux did not collect *C. vitreum*, but *C. clarkii*. Dautzenberg & Durouchoux (1906: 44 [7]; 1913: 21) discovered the species near the Pointe des Corbières (St. Servan-sur-Mer) and near St.-Malo (Ile de Cézembre and Ile Harbour), living under stones in colonies generally consisting of many specimens; they rather frequently met with empty shells of this species in dredged material. Most probably these are the first records for the Channel. The Dautzenberg collection at Brussels comprises samples of *C. clarkii* from

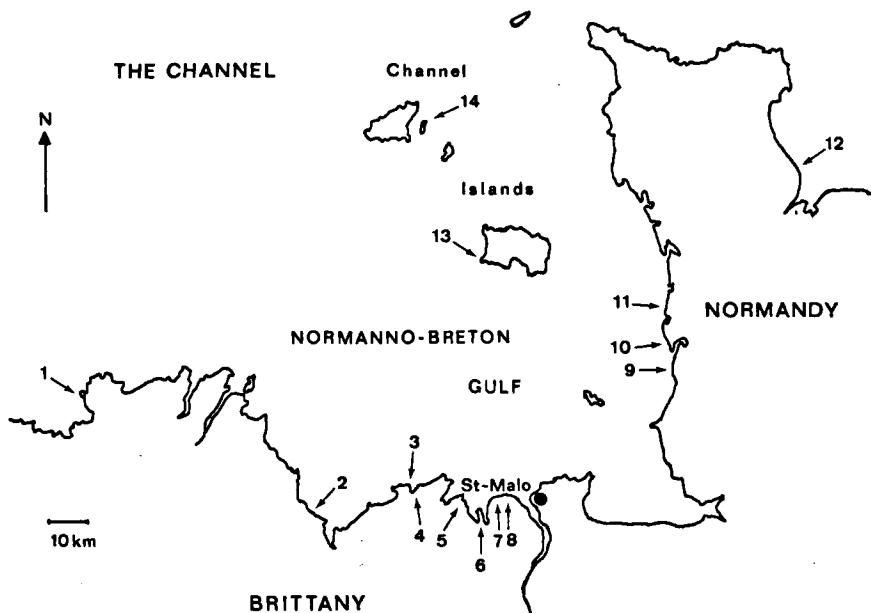


Fig. 1. Records of *C. clarkii* for the Channel in the period 1975-1982. All samples contain shells that are partly or entirely covered by the periostracum. The identification has been verified by the authors of the present paper.

1, Trébeurden (Van der Linden, 1983), L; 2, les Rosaires, new record, HN; 3, St-Michel-le-Port, new record, HN; 4, Sables-d'Or-les-Pins, from building sand (Hoeksema, 1982), K; 5, St-Cast, new record, HN; 6, St-Jacut, new records, B & HN; 7, St-Lunaire, new records, B & HN; 8, St-Enogat, new record, HN; 9, Hauteville, new record, HN; 10, le Passous, new record, HN; 11, Gouville, new record, HN; 12, la Madeleine, new record, HN; 13, Corbière Point & St. Ouen's Bay, Jersey (Stiva, 1983a, 1983b), S; 14, Shell Beach, Herm (Hoeksema, 1981), HK.

Abbreviations: B = coll. R. H. de Bruyne, Amsterdam; HK = coll. D. F. Hoeksema, Middelburg; HN = coll. H. J. Hoenselaar, Alkmaar; K = coll. Mrs. T. Keukelaar-van den Berge, Wilhelminadorp; L = coll. J. van der Linden, The Hague; S = coll. A. Stiva, Amsterdam.

various localities in the bay of St.-Malo, all of which, according to the labels, have been taken in the period 1901-1913.

Recently the work of a few Dutch naturalists has revealed that *C. clarkii* is still part of the Channel fauna. Shells with (remnants of the) periostracum have been found on the coasts of North Brittany, Normandy and the Channel Islands (fig. 1). Some of these shells, from St.-Michel-le-Port, St.-Enogat, Gouville, la Madeleine and the island of Jersey, contain opercula and remnants of the soft parts. So far living specimens of *C. clarkii* have not been recorded again.

As Dautzenberg & Fischer (1925) and Seaward (1982) do not mention *C. clarkii*, nor *C. vitreum*, the distribution of *C. clarkii* in the Channel appears to be limited to the southern parts. The species seems to be common in the Normanno-Breton gulf (limits:

Héaux de Bréhat, la Hague and les Casquets), one out of four natural regions into which the western Channel can be subdivided (Cabioc'h, 1968).

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SAMENVATTING

In 1979 werd de mariene gastropode *Caecum clarkii* Carpenter, 1858, gevonden op het Kanaal-eiland Herm (Hoeksema, 1981). Inmiddels zijn er diverse andere waarnemingen uit het Kanaal bekend.

Vondsten uit het begin van deze eeuw, gemeld als *Caecum vitreum* Carpenter, 1858, uit de Baai van St.-Malo (Dautzenberg & Durouchoux, 1906, 1913), bleken alle betrekking te hebben op *C. clarkii*; recentelijk is *C. clarkii* aangetroffen op verschillende plaatsen in Noord-Bretagne, Normandië en op de Kanaaleilanden (fig. 1). De verspreiding van *C. clarkii* in het Kanaal lijkt beperkt tot het zuidelijk deel. De soort schijnt algemeen voor te komen in de Normannobretonese Golf.